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"Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

—Michigan State Board of Education Goal

State Board Update

A discussion began at the December 2008 State Board of Education meeting to update the 2009-10 school year standards for accreditation. A redesign team has found that under Education YES!, the Michigan accreditation and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) scores needs to be aligned. It is recommending a more understandable one-stop information system.

The new system, Michigan's School Accreditation System (Mi-SAS), would replace the current Education YES! system.

The Michigan Department of Education will be taking the proposal, with changes suggested by the Board, to the public for input. Adoption of a new plan is proposed for this spring. House and Senate Education committees also will have to review the plan.

Notification and instructions for input will be sent to districts in spring 2009. You may also check for any updates on the MDE website at www.michigan.gov/mde.



Teacher of the Year Teams Up With Lottery

Jennifer Haberling (pictured above), the current Michigan Teacher of the Year, is teaming up with the Michigan Bureau of Lottery to promote education in Michigan and help bring recognition to Michigan teachers.

Haberling, a seventh grade English teacher at Hudsonville Public School's Baldwin Street Middle School, with 14 years of classroom experience, was selected from 17 regional semifinalists statewide.

Recently, Ms. Haberling spent the day with a film crew, shooting a series of Lottery television commercials. Profits from Michigan lottery sales are deposited into the state's School Aid Fund.

Since its inception in 1972, the Michigan Lottery has generated \$15.04 billion in net revenues to support K-12 public education in Michigan. In fiscal year 2008 alone, the Lottery transferred \$740.7 million directly to the state School Aid Fund.

MDE would like to thank the Michigan Lottery Commission for its financial contributions that support public education programs throughout the state.

From State Superintendent Mike Flanagan:

For the past few years, we've been advocating the integration of technology into the classrooms. The involvement of technology will help to better prepare our children for the upcoming work and lives they will lead in the 21st Century.

Here at MDE, we have initiated many efforts to integrate technology into the way we do business, to help reduce costs during these critical fiscal times. We have used podcasts to bring important messages from myself and staff to educators in the field. We are using video-conferencing to participate at events around the state. Last year, I gave my keynote speech to the Upper Peninsula Legislative Summit from MDE's Video-Conference Room, which included a Q&A session with the Summit's participants in Marquette. Recently, I delivered a live speech electronically from Lansing to the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association Conference in Kalamazoo, which Executive Director, Bob Howe later commented "was a highlight of our conference."



It can't be business as usual. I encourage everyone to "Re-imagine" how they can use the technology around us to make us more efficient and effective. We can help lead the transformation of how education is shaped for this new century.

CIMS-2 Redesign Takes Shape

In November 2007, MDE's Office of Special Education/Early Intervention Support began redesigning the state's Continuous Improvement and Monitoring System (CIMS) to update the process and tools used to help the state, intermediate school districts (ISDs) and local school districts keep track of the tasks and activities required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Highlights of the CIMS-2 redesign include an emphasis on data analysis versus data collection and a new schedule of activities. Every local school district will complete the CIMS-2 process each year, with teams convening in the spring to review and analyze existing data as presented in the new CIMS-2 report for State Performance Plan (SPP) indicators. Corrective action plans (CAPs) will be drafted in the spring, progress reports will be due in the fall, and CAP activities must be completed by December of each year.

The CIMS-2 will launch on April 15, 2009. For more information on the status of the CIMS-2 redesign, or to learn more about CIMS-2 training opportunities, visit www.cenmi.org/cims.

Great Lakes Center for Education's report on Multiple Pathways

Helping students prepare to succeed in both college and career requires well-designed high school reform. A new report from the **Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice** takes a look at the Multiple Pathways approach, which connects rigorous academic preparation and technical knowledge to opportunities to learn from real-world settings such as the workplace.

Many states are currently developing high school reforms labeled "Multiple Pathways," built on the fundamental insight that career and technical education – which used to be called "vocational education" – can be academically rigorous. Multiple Pathways policies allow students to gravitate to schooling themes that are personally relevant, and have the potential to substantially improve secondary schooling.



stand the best chance of accessing the full range of postsecondary options and a solid start toward a personally and socially productive life.

You can access the brief at this link:

["Multiple Pathways: 21st Century High Schools that Prepare All Students for College, Career and Civic Participation."](#)



The Multiple Pathway approach rests on three research-based propositions:

1. Learning both academic and technical knowledge is enhanced when the two are integrated and contextualized in authentic situations;
2. Connecting academics to real-world contexts promotes student interest and engagement; and
3. Students who gain both academic and career education



MASB Names New Executive Director

The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) Board of Directors recently announced their selection of Kathy Hayes as Executive Director.

Kathy succeeds Justin King, who retired in May after 21 years of service.

Kathy has been with the association for 10 years, serving as a key figure in the development of board of education members. She has served over 15 years as a local board member.

"My number one priority is to work with the board and staff to advocate on behalf of all Michigan school board members and the students they serve," Kathy said.

MDE would like to congratulate Kathy on her new role and is looking forward to working with her and MASB on enriching our student's education here in Michigan.

School Improvement Conference Re-Cap

The November 2008 School Improvement Conference held at the Lansing Center in Lansing was a great success. Over 800 educators from across Michigan were able to attend and learn about promising practices that their colleagues across the state have developed and are using successfully to raise the levels of student achievement.

The conference keynote speaker, Deborah Walstrom, has served as an educational consultant to many schools and school divisions locally, nationally, and internationally. She is an award-winning trainer and researcher - including two awards from the National School Boards Association. Her specialty areas include using data for improving student achievement, comprehensive classroom assessment, curriculum design, and instructional/learning strategies for student success.



Keynote speaker Deborah Walstrom engaging the audience.

The conference also previewed the website for the electronic completion of the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This process has been designed to provide schools and districts with a common planning template that addresses student learning and system needs that have been identified through the school's Comprehensive Needs Assessment. The template also has been designed to address any federal, state, and locally-required elements that must be contained in a School Improvement Plan.

State Superintendent Mike Flanagan and Deputy Superintendent Sally Vaughn honored 25 schools that worked hard and were able to come off the AYP list. The Michigan State Board of Education and MDE congratulate these schools. This is a tremendous accomplishment for these schools, staff, communities, and of course, the students.

New Options Alternative High School

Theodore Roosevelt School

Barry ISD Special Education

Northridge Academy

Beecher Middle School Academy

Pathfinder Center

Dailey Elementary School

Tecumseh Middle School

Tucker Elementary School

Breckenridge High School

Cheboygan Adult Learning Center

Cherry Hill School of Performing Arts

Cerveny Middle School

Greenfield Union Elementary School

Noble Elementary School

Dickinson-Iron Special Education

Campus Elementary

The Manor



Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan and Deputy Superintendent Sally Vaughn presenting a Certificate of Achievement.

Bethune Academy

Durfee Elementary School

Marquette Elementary School

Oakman Elementary / Orthopedic School

Gaylord High School/Voc. Bldg.

Kosciuszko School

International Academy of Flint (K-12)

Watch for announcements on upcoming school improvement training opportunities. Information on these opportunities can be found on the school improvement website at: www.mi.gov/schoolimprovement

**"The character
of every act
depends upon the
circumstances in
which it is done."**

~ Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

A Call for Nominations

The Michigan State Board of Education and MDE are asking for your help to call attention to some of the outstanding teachers who work with our students in Michigan every day.

Nomination information for the **Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST)** is now available on the PAEMST web site at www.paemst.org.

Please consider nominating a deserving 7th through 12th grade mathematics and science teacher for this award. Highlights of the Awards include a \$10,000 National Science Foundation grant, and a expenses-paid trip for the awardee and a guest to Washington, D.C., to attend an awards ceremony.

Questions regarding this award program may be directed to Ms. Betty Crowder at ecrowder@rochester.k12.mi.us or (248)760-6399.



Advanced Placement (AP)

In 2004, the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth advocated for Michigan to double the number of residents who attain post-secondary degrees or credentials that will link them to success in the new economy. The need for a post-secondary experience never has been as important as it is now in the 21st Century. One such avenue for connecting today's students to post-secondary experiences is involvement in Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

The College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Program has been available to Michigan high school students for nearly 40 years. High school students may take one of 37 course offerings. AP examinations are given nationwide each May. A student score of 3, 4, or 5 on the examination is recognized by most colleges for credit.

Beyond gaining experience, a student gains an edge in college admission. College admission officers say they place more importance on grades in college-prep courses such as AP than they do on any other factor. Research shows that success on AP exams is a strong predictor of success in college.

More students are passing Advanced Placement exams in every part of the country, as college-level work in high school becomes increasingly common — and competitive. The number of students taking Advanced Placement exams increased nearly 10% from 2007 to 2008. Over the last 10 years, the number of students taking AP exams has more than doubled from 17,783 to 39,743 in 2008. The number of exams taken by these students also significantly increased from 26,940 in 1998 to 63,554 in 2008, of which 40,642 exams received a 3, 4, or 5.

Michigan also has substantially increased student participation in the AP Test Fee Reduction program, a federal program for students eligible for free and reduced lunch. The number of tests paid from this program has more than doubled from 2,040 examinations in 2005 to 4,732 in 2008.

If you have any questions regarding the Advanced Placement testing program, please contact Sam Sinicropi by phone at 517-241-1162 or by email at sinicropis@michigan.gov.

Christopher Columbus Awards Program

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a federal government agency, is pleased to announce the national Call for Entries for the **2008-09 Christopher Columbus Awards** program. Now in its 13th year, a free program that challenges sixth, seventh and eighth grade school students to explore opportunities for positive change in their communities.

Teams of up to four students and a coach identify a community issue and use the scientific process to solve it. Finalist teams win an all-expense-paid trip to Walt Disney World where they compete for gold medals and U.S. Savings Bonds.

In its 12 years, the program has attracted over 15,500 'everyday' students from all across the U.S., and appeals to educators who are increasingly looking to develop critical thinking skills in students while meeting State and Federal standards. The program:

- is a cross-curricular activity that **helps meet both NCLB and state standards**;
- helps address the performance gap in U.S. science education by encouraging critical thinking skills in all students; and
- encourages community service.



The Christopher Columbus Awards Program is free to enter. For more information and competition guidelines, call **1-800-291-6020** or visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com. Coaches may be teachers, parents, community leaders or mentors. Teams do not need to be affiliated with a school to enter. The **deadline for receipt of entries is Monday, February 9, 2009**.

Governor continues efforts to educate children and protect citizens

During her traditional end-of-year discussion with reporters, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm said that the critical importance of her administration's efforts to diversify the state's economy and create jobs was reinforced by the national recession and automotive industry crisis. The governor said that her administration continued to make progress in four priority areas: creating jobs, making health care more affordable and accessible, **providing every child with a quality education**, and maintaining safe places for families to live, work and play.

"The economic crises of 2008, including the severe challenges of the automotive industry, should serve as a stark reminder that we must diversify Michigan's economy, create jobs, and protect our citizens," Granholm said. "This year, we showed that even in the toughest economic times, when we work together, we can move Michigan forward."

Governor Granholm highlighted several key steps that her administration took this year to diversify the economy, including: passage of the energy legislation, creating thousands of new jobs in targeted sectors of the economy and continuing to provide critical services to citizens during this time of economic challenge.

Providing a quality education for every child:

- Governor Granholm proposed and was successful in securing funding for the 21st Century Schools Fund to help school districts replace large high schools that struggle with low academic achievement and high dropout rates, with small high schools that use relationships, discipline and relevance to help at-risk students achieve.
- Four additional "early college" high schools will open this year, giving students the opportunity to prepare for careers in health care. These four schools will join the six early college high schools that opened last year, creating relevancy for students looking for hands-on experience.
- Despite severe budgetary challenges, Granholm was able to push spending for K-12 education to an all-time high.
- The governor also proposed and secured additional funding for early childhood education, giving 2,800 additional four-year-olds access to quality preschool.
- Granholm soon will sign legislation she proposed to help Michigan communities create Kalamazoo Promise-like scholarship opportunities.



Mi-GAL

Did you know that the Michigan Department of Education maintains an online searchable database of grant opportunities? The Michigan Grants Available List (MiGAL) is designed for schools, higher education institutions, parents, and the general public to find education-related funding opportunities.

Users are able to generate searches for federal, state, private, and other funding or grant resources that relate to education and/or youth. The MiGAL database web address is: www.michigan.gov/migal.

The database recently has been updated to include over 100 new grant, scholarship, fellowship, and award/contest opportunities. Three recent additions include (click on links for more information):

- [Partnerships in Character Education Program](#) - This program supports the design and implementation of character education programs that can be integrated into classroom instruction and that are consistent with state academic content standards.
- [Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program](#) - This unique initiative (supported by three agencies: Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice) supports the implementation and enhancement of comprehensive, community-wide plans that focus on multiple elements, including safe school environments, mental health treatment services, and early childhood learning programs.
- [Teaching American History Grant Program](#) - This program supports projects that aim to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of traditional American history.

Questions about MiGAL can be directed to Jill Bradshaw at bradshawj@michigan.gov.



Sites Needed to Provide Important Afterschool Meals For Kids



The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is looking for community sponsors to run afterschool snack and supper programs for at-risk children. This federal program provides free meals to students while they are engaged in positive afterschool programs.

Research has demonstrated the positive relationship between good nutrition and academic achievement. MDE's Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) offers an At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper program that can improve the quality of nutrition for eligible students. The CACFP provides a cash reimbursement for snacks and suppers served to children while in an afterschool program. Reimbursement is for school-age children who are 18 years of age or under at the beginning of the school year.

Eligible sites must:

- be located in an attendance area of a school where 50 percent or more of the students are eligible for free and reduced price meals;
- offer educational or enrichment activities after the regular school day ends or on weekends, during the times of the year school is in session;
- meet licensing, health or safety codes required by state or local law; and
- serve meals that meet USDA meal pattern requirements.

Many students go home to an empty cupboard and absent parents. Their food needs are great but the resources are minimal or non-existent. The CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper program could be a stop-gap measure. What child wouldn't want something to eat immediately after the school day? Students who participate in the CACFP At-Risk Afterschool Snack/Supper program receive healthy snacks and/or balanced suppers.

Interested groups and organizations can contact the CACFP staff at (517) 373-7391 for further information. To preview a sample CACFP application, go to www.michigan.gov/meis. Scroll down to Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) and click on the Child Nutrition Application Program (CNAP). To login, use "systems" and use "samples" as the password. The sample application is in "read only" format.

Graduation/Dropout Review and Comment Application Release

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) recently sent a [memo to the field regarding Graduation/Dropout Review](#). This letter provides critical information about preparing to meet the new U.S. Department of Education regulations for cohort graduation rate calculations when the Graduation and Dropout (GAD) Application is released on January 5, 2009. This memo lists deadlines and actions that should be followed to prepare for and complete district's GAD review. Your district's GAD authorized users will be able to review their 2008 cohort of students and make requests for minimal changes to the data through February 6, 2009. **This will be district's only opportunity to review and appeal their graduation rate data.**

If you have questions, contact CEPI at cepi@michigan.gov or 517-335-0505 (select option 3). If you need assistance in understanding the impact of the four-year and five-year graduation rates on your district, contact MDE's Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability at 877-560-8378. As always, thank you for your continued collaboration with CEPI and MDE.

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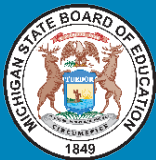
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Newsletter Contacts:

David Head
headd@michigan.gov

Director of Communications
Martin Ackley

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ON THE HORIZON...

- Near Future

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), January 13, 2009

[MASA Midwinter Conference](#), January 28-30, 2009

[MI Collaborative Early Childhood Conference](#), January 28-30

[State Board of Education Meeting](#), February 10, 2009

[Michigan CTE Conference](#), February 8-10, 2009

[MCSS State Prof. Development Conf](#), February 9-10, 2009

[Michigan School Testing Conference](#), February 23-25, 2009

- Distant Future

[MI Reading Association Annual Conference](#), March 14-16

[2009 MACUL Conference](#), March 18-20, 2009

[Spring School Improvement ISD Workshop](#), March 23, 2009

[MiAEYC Conference](#), March 26-28, 2009

[2009 AdvancED Conference](#), March 29-31, 2009

[Spring School Improvement Conference](#), April 21-22, 2009

[MSBO 2009 Annual Conference](#), April 28-30, 2009

[Michigan After-school Collaborative Summer Summit](#), May 29

[Educational Technology Leadership Conference](#), June 22-23

[MASCD Curriculum Leaders Institute](#), August 2009

[2009 MCTM Annual Conference & Institute](#), August 6-7, 2009

[Michigan Teaching for Learning Institute](#), August 11-13, 2009

